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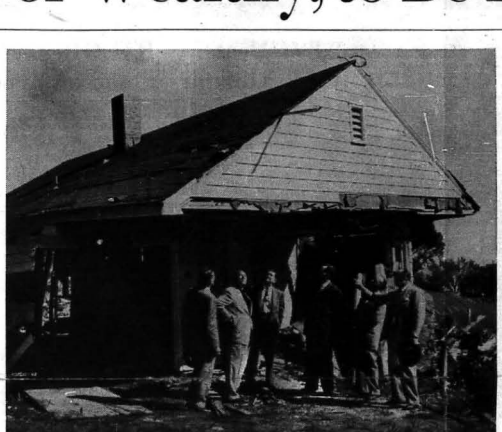
Truman Calls Tax Law 'Escape' For Wealthy; to Be Effective Nov. 1



CONGRESS WOULDN'T VOTE A CENT.—Topeka, Kans.—The "soak-the-poor" 82d Congress refused to vote a single cent in outright cash grants to help the hapless victims of last summer's floods in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Illinois who suffered damage typical of that being examined by AFL News Commentator Frank Edwards (third from right) and Secretary-Treasurer F. E. [illegible] Kansas State Federation of Labor (third from left). The AFL asked Congress to appropriate funds [illegible] give a man, like the owner of this house completely wrecked and its contents washed downstream, an outright cash grant up to 80 percent of his proven loss, not to exceed $20,000 per claim, to rehabilitate. Instead Congress voted $155 for long-term loans.

Washington.—President Truman signed the new tax law raising personal income levies 11 percent and hiking excess taxes Nov. 1, but he called it an "escape" for the wealthy from paying their proper share of the national tax load.

The bill, which will raise $5,561,000,000 in a year, was sent to Mr. Truman by the 82d Congress along with a flood of other measures just before adjournment of its first session on Oct. 20 to Jan. 8. Other bills included:

1. Raise in pay for 2 million U. S. postal and classified workers of $300 to $800.

2. A 15 percent increase in retirement benefits for the 1,500,000 railroad workers.

3. Appropriation of $7.3 billion for foreign aid.

These 3 measures represent tremendous victories for AFL unions, although the final achievements were shy of the broad prorgrams supported and espoused by the workers' organizations.

The pay raise for U. S. classified and postal workers and the increase in retirement benefits for railroad workers were won only after the hardest kind of work extending back almost a year by AFL unions.

The unions were forced to alter the position of congressmen from one of almost complete hostility to one of support for the improved benefits.

In restoring about one-half of the 5 percent cut made by the Senate in the foreign aid bill, the conferees sent a bill to final passage which more nearly approximated AFL wishes.

AFL President William Green called the Senate cut "shocking" and urged restoration of the full amount of the cut. His plea helped to get more than $100 million added to the measure.

But all efforts to get a fair and equitable tax law collapsed. Congress passed a soak-the-poor, spare-the-rich measure.

Mr. Truman said he signed the bill for the same reason that many congressmen voted for it finally, after once rejecting it, because the treasury needs the revenues. He criticized the law for failing to raise the full $10 billion he requested and added:

"Furthermore, this legislation does little to close the loopholes in present tax laws, and in some respects provides additional means by which wealthy individuals can escape paying their proper share of the national tax load through such devices as excessively liberal 'capital gains' provisions, family partnerships, and excessive depletion allowances on oil and gas and certain minerals properties.

"In addition, the act contains a 'rider'—the so-called Jenner amendment—which is quite unrelated to the purpose of raising revenue, and which may well result in unwarranted publicity, and personal indignity and unhappiness, for aged people and others receiving public assistance.

"If we did not need the revenue from this act so badly, I would not have approved provisions such as these. As it is, I feel that I must sign this legislation, but I shall urge the Congress at its next session to give major attention to legislation improving our tax laws."

U.S.-Rail Workers Win Hikes Before 82d Quits

U.S. Pay Hike Effective July 1

Washington.—More than 2 million U. S. postal and classified workers were slated for a pay raise retroactive to last July 1.

The increase was voted in the dying hours of the first session of the 82d Congress, which had resisted every inch of the way all of the arguments and persuasion arrayed by 22 AFL unions to show the need for a wage increase—the first since 1949.

Under the terms of the bills, postal workers will receive $400 to $800 a year more.

Classified workers will get $300 to $800 a year more.

Starting Jan. 6, a 13-26 days leave plan becomes effective replacing the present 26 days leave. Employes with 3 years service will get 13 days leave a year; 3 to 15 years, 20 days; over 15 years, 26 days.

Sick leave is set at 13 days for all employes with permission to accumulate from year to year the unused sick leave.

APPROVE RAISE

Denver, Colo.—Employes of Great Western Sugar Co. in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Montana, represented by 18 AFL unions, won pay increases averaging 5 to 14.4 cents an hour under an agreement approved by the regional Wage Stabilization Board.

FAIR DEAL DREW BLANK

Washington.—Here's a headline summary of the 1st session of the 82d Congress from The Washington, D. C., Evening Star: "Fair Deal Draws a Blank."

NAM-Ridden 82d Raps Lobbyists

Washington.—A committee of the 82d Congress on ethical standards in the Federal Government charged that the employment of business men without compensation (WOC)" in defense agencies "creates ethical problems and hazards."

The report criticizes at length the ethics and morals of business men in their relations with representatives of the legislative and executive branches of the Federal Government.

It was submitted just before adjournment of the first session of a Congress which has shown itself to be far more subservient to the wishes of the National Association of Manufacturers, oil companies and other big business interests of the country than many preceding congresses.

The committee noted that the government is employing mature, well-established businessmen, especially in numerous positions in defense agencies, which deal directly with the very industries from which they recently came.

(This is especially true in National Production Administration and Office of Price Administration where business men have been making rules for their own industries on obtaining materials and pricing policies since the defense mobilization began.—Editor.)

"The subcommittee believes that a government salary is preferable to a WOC status wherever possible, and that men who cannot give up their corporate salary should be replaced as rapidly as possible," the committee said:

"It is then up to the responsible officials to see that men from industry are not called upon to deal with business or cases touching their former employer, and in the event that such an issue does arise the industrialist in question should identify the issue and disqualify himself from handling it.

"This is so clear that we hope and believe it is the general practice.

"We wish to suggest that if at all possible, the highest positions in defense agencies which are necessarily political in the best sense of the word should not be filled by persons drawn from the industries which they regulate.

"The specialists from the industries should be on tap but not on top."

The committee commented on double standards of morality:

"Examples of double standards can be found in all walks of life today. The credit system of the country is based upon faithfulness in meeting obligations, yet some bankers have felt no compunctions about using RFC refinancing to rid themselves of bad risks.

"The businessman's code is to be independent and stand on his own feet, but some organized industries, as well as other economic groups, do not hesitate to use all possible political force to secure highly favorable decisions from legislators and administrators at the public expense.

"The ruthless standard is epitomized by the traditional comment that 'business is business' or 'politics is politics.' When the two realms of economics and politics are combined, however, there is a clear danger from aggressive and self-centered politics."

On "lobbying in the ranks of big business," the committee said, "the evidence indicates that hundreds of millions of dollars are spent annually to influence both legislation and administration."

This lobbying has become . . . "a year-round business with an infinite variety of forms and almost unlimited funds . . . These pressures are at the heart of the problem of ethics in government."

Sees Business - Paid Men in Government Ethical Hazard

'IT'S EASIER TO LOOK AT STARS . . .'—Washington.—Looking up at the heroic statue of Samuel Gompers in the newly-named Gompers' Square, 11th St. and Massachusetts Ave. N.W., the founder and first president of the AFL seems to be looking at the stars. In arguing for a strong trade union movement, Mr. Gompers once said, "It's easier to look at stars when your stomach is full."

Southwest Federations Cheered By AFL Stand on Import Labor

Atlanta, Ga.—J. L. Rhodes, AFL southern organizer and representative in AFL-Mexican labor negotiations on farm labor imports, said that the state federations of labor in the southwest are encouraged by action of the AFL 70th convention on this subject.

The convention approved the conferences held between Mexican labor officials and officers of the Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California state federations of labor. These meetings aimed at agreement to work for unionization of imported Mexican nationals and their employment at American wage standards.

In reporting the AFL convention action to southern district federations, Mr. Rhodes said:

"The action of the American Federation of Labor in this regard is the first positive action on the part of the American Federation of Labor to bring about an effective control of the wetback and migrant labor problems of the southwestern section of the United States with the exception of activities of the labor movement through its legislative department.

"The State Federations of Labor in the southwest are encouraged by this action. They want a free relationship established with the labor movement of Mexico and satisfactory control of importation of labor in this country, assuring those who enter the country employment at good wages and fair working conditions and eliminating competition."

Two major committees of the American Federation of Labor handled the Mexican labor subject.

The Committee on Organization, headed by Matthew Woll, recommended that several steps be taken concerning the overall labor relations question with Old Mexico by asking that conferences be established between the American Federation of Labor and the labor movement of Mexico.

COOPERATE ON MEXICAN LABOR.—San Francisco.—AFL border state federations of labor map program of close cooperation with each other and free Mexican trade unions to war against exploitation of Mexican nationals on the big industrial farms of the Southwest. Instrumental in devising and executing this program of close coordination are these secretaries of three state federations of labor, l. to r., Paul C. Sparks, Texas; E. F. Vickers, Sr., Arizona, and C. J. Haggerty, California. New Mexico is 4th federation in program.

It further called upon the Department of Labor to establish favorable procedures on the importation of migrant labor under the agreements existing between the United States Government and the Republic of Mexico.

It recommended a tri-partite board representing organized labor, the employer and the public to negotiate such agreements in the future and that prevailing wages be established.

They further recommended that working conditions comparable to the American farm labor conditions be provided for the Mexican Nationals.

The Committee on Organization, headed by William C. Doherty, recommended approval of the Arizona Federation of Labor resolution, which called upon the American Federation of Labor to authorize the president of the American Federation of Labor to take positive and effective action to encourage closer relations between the Mexican labor movement and the American Federation of Labor.

The Organizing Committee recommended that this procedure be followed to the encouragement of such understandings between the labor movement of Mexico and America in cooperation with the Latin-American departments of the American Federation of Labor and other departments interested in world labor affairs.

The resolutions committee expressed regret that the "soak-the-poor" 82d Congress had enacted a Mexican importation law that flouted recommendations of President Truman's Commission on Migratory Labor.

"Not only farm workers, but the interests of all American workers are jeopardized by this legislation," the committee said.

Senate Votes 'Shocking' Cut In Foreign Aid

Washington.—The Senate voted a $274,126,390 reduction in approving $7,208,401,400 for foreign economic and military aid.

In approving, 57-13, the cut recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate rejected a request by AFL President William Green that the full amount previously approved by the House be voted.

The bill went back to the House for expected approval. President Truman earlier had signed the Mutual Security Act establishing a Mutual Security Administration. He appointed W. Averell Harriman as administrator.

In a letter to Vice President Alben W. Barkley protesting the proposed Senate cut, Mr. Green said:

"The report of the cut made by the Senate Appropriations Committee in the Mutual Security Program is shocking news.

"The American Federation of Labor calls urgently upon the Senate of the United States to restore the cut and to appropriate the full amount necessary to carry out the program authorized by the Congress in the Mutual Security bill and signed by the President on Oct. 10.

"The urgent purpose of this program is to prevent Communist aggression and subversion and to carry out the positive program of strengthening the free nations that stand with the people of the United States in the present crisis. The Congress of the United States must stand by its solemn commitment to our friends and allies on whom we are counting to carry out in full their mutual responsibilities to us.

"It is labor's earnest hope that the Senate will restore in full the cut recommended by its Appropriations Committee and thus enable the United States to keep her faith with the free world in the face of the common danger."

LIFE SPAN LONGER

Washington.—Average length of life in the United States has increased to a record high of nearly 68 years, Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing said. The new figure, based on final 1949 vital statistics compiled by the Public Health Service, shows a gain of almost half a year over the average lifetime indicated by 1948 death rates.

APPOINTED

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin appointed AFL representatives to these area manpower committees:

Kansas City Area—Acting chairman, William M. Kirby, local office manager of the Kansas City office of the Missouri Employment Service; Floyd Early, business representative Laundry Drivers Union, Kansas City, Mo.; George A. Harrison, president Central Labor Union, Kansas City, Kans.; Perrin D. McElroy, business manager and secretary Building Trades Council, Kansas City, Mo.

Davenport-Rock Island-Moline Area —Chairman, Earl Woodring, local office manager of the Moline office of the Illinois State Employment Service; Laurence N. Miller, business representative International Association of Machinists District Lodge 102, Moline, Ill.; Howard E. Druckmiller, business representative Painters Local 502, Rock Island, Ill.; Jasper Rose, business representative Meat Cutters District Union 431, Davenport, Iowa.

Daily Issues Second Edition

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The National Reporter, proposed daily newspaper financed by a dozen AFL and CIO trade unions, issued its second sample edition Sept. 26 devoting major front page space to the AFL 70th convention.

The standard 8-column, 10-page paper was generously illustrated and carried many special articles and departments on labor matters in addition to nationwide coverage of union news.

The paper is soliciting 25,000 subscriptions at $20 per year. The National Reporter maintains subscription offices at 1416 F St. N.W., Washington; 343 S. Dearborn St., Chicago; Room 206, Broadway Central Building, Detroit; 510 Commonwealth Annex Building, Pittsburgh.

BOWLES CONFIRMED

Washington.—Over Sen. Robert A. Taft's violent opposition, the Senate approved, 43 to 33, the appointment of Chester Bowles, former governor of Connecticut and wartime price administrator, to be U. S. Ambassador to India.

WIN CASE

Washington.—The Supreme Court refused to review the suit of the Railway Express Agency seeking to shut off $130,000 unemployment benefits from Teamster Union members in New York.

The payments were made for time lost by teamsters during a work stoppage in connection with a dispute with the company between Sept. 23 and Oct. 12, 1950.

Russians Arrest Austrian Binder of AFL Slave Map

Vienna, Austria.—Russian authorities confiscated hundreds of thousands of copies of the AFL map of Soviet slave labor camps and arrested the Austrian bookbinder and his wife who were binding them for the United States Information Service.

The map was reprinted here in folder form for mailing throughout Austria. The printer, who lives in the United States sector of Vienna, sent it to the binder in the 10th district in the Soviet sector.

The binder and his wife, Edmund and Anni Neumesteir, and a Soviet representative ordered the printer to present himself in the 10th district police station. This the printer refused to do.

Copies of the map are being used by Local 198 of the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen in an organizing drive in Bakersfield, Calif., against the Communist-led International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, headed by Harry Bridges.

A Hollywood motion picture studio is preparing a short on the map to be released in commercial houses throughout the nation.

Copies of the map are available from the Free Trade Union Committee, American Federation of Labor, 1710 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

2,804 Meat Price Violators

Washington.—The Federal drive to enforce meat controls—which has turned up a total of 2,804 violations against packers and slaughter-houses —was credited with forcing a drop in beef prices.

Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle made the assertion as he announced nearly 1,000 new violations were turned up in the drive's third week, raising the total to 2,084.

He said that since the drive started Sept. 24 average prices on prime steers at Chicago has dropped 53 cents per hundred pounds, while prices of choice steers have dropped 72 cents and on good steers, $1.

ULLICO

New York.—All offices of the Union Labor Life Insurance Co. are now located at 200 E. 70th St., New York 21, N. Y., telephone Trafalgar 9-2800.

Executive offices of President Matthew Woll and other company officers were the last to be moved to the address in September.

Mr. Woll said the merger of all home offices in one building means that company services "will be even more efficient than our high standards of the past."

There is no substitute for superior workmanship and quality of goods—be sure you get the union label on all merchandise.

BTUC Reasserts Stand on Arms

By RAY BOYFIELD

Secretary Organization Department British Trade Union Congress

London, England.—Five full days of debate at this year's Trades Union Congress, in which critics of every sort made their case, produced no marked change in the industrial and international policies of trade unionism in Britain.

Delegates from 186 unions—which includes almost all British unions—reaffirmed their broad Labor town ready to resist the two big potential threats to their lives and livelihood—aggression from outside and inflation from within.

This Congress was not notable for formulating new policy nor was the general attitude on major issues in doubt. However, if the debates were not exciting, the decisions were significant. Congress stood firm, despite growing difficulties at home and overseas.

The main discussions were a series of debates on rearmament, peace, and international affairs and another on the cost of living, wages and profits.

The support given throughout the year by the TUC General Council to the government's conduct of foreign affairs and to the vast new defense program was endorsed by a large majority.

As the TUC president put it in his address, rearmament is a burden Britain must carry because they have accepted the obligation to help maintain the defenses of the free world against aggression.

It is a high price to pay, he added, but no settlement can be negotiated with Russia except through strength.

Delegates noted the fact that the higher cost of living since Korea was, for the greater part, the result of rising import prices rather than of any factors over which the government had direct control.

Rejecting the proposition that now was the time to use their power to force wage increases regardless of consequences, the trade union representatives, although impressed by the measures taken by the government to prevent profiteering, nevertheless instructed their general council to ensure that the government closes no gaps in the domestic defense against rising prices.

The convention stood firm not only on policy but on the representatives chosen to administer it. All 33 members of the general council, elected last year, were reelected through the ballots in the 18 industrial groups.

Five unions who were regarded as Communists were all defeated. There was little change, too, in the committee elected to supervise arrangements for the 1952 Congress—here again no Communist was successful.

We want Peace. Fair shares Work for all
We can't afford a Tory Government
VOTE LABOUR
Poverty, Slums Dole Queues Low wages
Remember the high cost of Toryism
Tories— profits for the few
Labour profits everybody
Under the Tories—
High profits for big business
High prices for housewives
Declare war on the profiteers
Tories would—
Slash policies and push p...
Give LABOUR security in the House
to give YOU security in the Home
don't falter
don't alter

BRITISH LABOR SEEKS VOTES.—London, England.—Joyce Morley, press office employe of Britain's Labor Party, posts black, yellow and orange slogans used in effort to win Oct. 25 general election and continue trade unionists' political party in control of the British government. British citizens in the United States, Canada and elsewhere were able to vote by mail or proxy in poll.

RENTS UP $8

Washington.—Over 60 percent of all rental units within Washington, D. C., experienced rent increases averaging $8, or 14 percent, during the 3 months from mid-May to mid-August.

Almost all of the reported increases occurred after July 1, effective date of the new District of Columbia rent control law. This law permits a rent rise for individual dwellings up to 20 percent above their 1941 levels.

66,193 DISABLED PLACED

Washington.—The Federal Security Agency's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation reported that this nation-wide state-federal program placed 66,193 disabled men and women to employment in the past fiscal year, a 31-year peak.

STRESSES LABOR UNITY.—Chicago.—President Joseph V. Moreschi of AFL Hod Carriers and Common Laborers Union (left) welcomes AFL President William Green to union's 11th convention. Mr. Green made it clear that AFL wants AFL-CIO unity on terms satisfactory to both sides.

Laborers Report 386,000 Members, Second Highest

(Special Correspondence)

Chicago.—During World War II, when many employers were using job reclassifications to get around the wage control regulations, there was a standing joke that common laborers, as such, had disappeared from the American scene.

Actually, the American common laborer is far from extinct, as was proved by the general secretary-treasurer's report to the 11th convention of the AFL International Hod Carriers', Building and Common Laborers' Union of America.

Figures of Peter Fosco, general secretary-treasurer, showed there was an average of 386,187 members of the big AFL international digging ditches, laying railroad track and pushing wheelbarrows from Jan. 1, 1951, to June 30.

This is the largest membership in history, except for the construction boom year of 1942. Since the last convention in 1946, the union has organized the mainline pipeline construction industry on a national basis and has national agreements covering both pipeline and railway track work.

Agreements negotiated with the carpenters', plasterers', bricklayers' and teamsters' internationals have settled most of the jurisdictional disputes which had troubled the laborers in previous years.

"The laborer, who many years ago was totally dependent upon the economic support of other organizations, can today stand on his own feet," President Joseph V. Moreschi told the convention.

William Green, AFL president, addressing 1,600 delegates at the convention's opening session, said Congress will have to reckon with the AFL in 1952 for its "disgraceful record."

Tax Giveaway Passes $10 Billion Mark

Washington.—The U. S. tax giveaway to business—operated by business men under Defense Mobilization Administrator Charles E. Wilson—topped $10 billion.

The program gives away about $2 billion a year in taxes in the next 5 years—industry gets the buildings, the taxpayers get the bills.

The Defense Production Administration announced its approval of 456 plants which thus become entitled to write off in 5 years, for tax purposes, construction and equipment costs of the defense facilities.

DPA announced the total so far approved as $9,692,880,210. But the agency noted that this does not include the value of 376 of the plants announced today as well as a number of others certified since August 18 for which no dollar value has yet been fixed.

On that date Mobilization Director Charles E. Wilson ordered a 60-day moratorium on the granting of the tax privileges, but made several exceptions. The chief exception was that firms which had undertaken expansion before Sept. 23, 1950, the date of the defense production law, could be certified if the companies otherwise would lose their right to the privilege. The act gave them only one year to qualify.

Certificates were rushed through for several hundred such companies. But the value of the expansion to which the tax write-off could be applied was left blank. It will be worked out later.

It was apparent, however, that the inclusion of these items would bring the total of government aided expansion to well above $10 billion.

The moratorium expired Oct. 18.

The rapid write-off of depreciation —5 years instead of the normal 20 or 25—is allowed only for that portion of the projects which DPA feels may not have an assured earning power after the emergency.

The Wall Street Journal reported that despite the "moratorium," DPA officials admit they've handed out more awards since Aug. 18 than in any comparable period since the program got under way last year. In the last 60 days, the agency granted a total of 1,483 certificates of necessity for the benefits—about 35 percent of all certificates issued so far.

BAKERS WANT 5-DAY WEEK.—New Orleans, La.—President William F. Schnitzler of AFL Bakery and Confectionery Workers tells 24th union convention that 5-day week, reality in many areas, is uniform nation-wide goal. Convention rostrum was shaped in form of huge cake. Herman Winter, Bakers' president emeritus and AFL vice president, is at right of rostrum.

Homegoing Congressmen Failed To Raise Funds to Meet Bills

Washington.—The 82d Congress doesn't believe in paying its bills in full.

And it believes in soaking the hard-working wage earner in low and middle income groups the hardest to get what insufficient funds it does raise.

That's the essence of a statement by Vice President Matthew Woll on the new tax law finally agreed upon by Senate-House conferees and sent to Congress for adoption.

This second compromise conference bill provided tax increases totaling $5,691,000,000 with the rate on incomes under $2,000 a year being decreased from 11.5 to 11 percent.

The total was only slightly more than one-half the $10 billion requested by President Truman and approved by the AFL to pay-as-we-go for the Korean war and national defense against Communist aggression. Congress had appropriated $84 billion for military, domestic and foreign activities of the country.

"Every dollar below the $10 billion requested by President Truman which Congress failed to include in the tax bill will mean additional dollars in higher prices for both taxpayers and the government," Mr. Woll said.

"American people are confronted with the amazing spectacle of Congressmen who having approved federal appropriations at a record level for peacetime are now returning home without having provided the tax revenues to meet the obligations they have sanctioned."

Mr. Woll said the law as it came from the conference committee was both inequitable and inadequate because of its many provisions increasing the tax burden of those in the low income groups excessively.

He emphasized that virtually all studies submitted to congressional bodies during the past year have shown that those in the income groups below $3,000 are already carrying more than their share of the tax burden.

The compromise bill was the second worked out by Senate-House conferees. The House, in one of the legislative suprises of the session, rejected the original compromise.

Besides the tax bill, the tired, poorly managed, business-ridden Congress had to take final action on these other measures:

1. A bill appropriating $7,208,401,000 for foreign aid.

2. Bills to raise salaries of postal and government workers $300 to $800 a year and postal rates, including raising the penny postal card to 2 cents.

The Congress left to its next session any steps to amend the Defense Production Act to hold down prices.

Call Union Presidents To LLPE Meeting Nov. 1

Washington.—Presidents of AFL national and international unions were summoned here Nov. 1 to lay plans for the 1952 campaign of Labor's League for Political Education.

The meeting will be held in the Chantilly Room of the Hamilton Hotel beginning at 10 a.m. EST.

The meeting was scheduled by LLPE's administrative committee meeting at San Francisco to:

1. Urge each national and international union to get local unions to establish registration committees to assure that every AFL member and his family is qualified to vote in the 1952 election.

2. Obtain cooperation of all union presidents in the collection of $1 voluntary contributions to finance the political activities of LLPE next year.

The announcement by Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio that he will seek the Republican nomination for President and expects to be elected to the White House stimulated labor's interest in next year's campaign.

AFL President William Green promised that if Mr. Taft runs he will be soundly defeated.

In a letter to international union presidents, Mr. Green and AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany urged them and such representatives as they care to bring attend the important LLPE meeting.

Dixiecrats-GOP Refuse To Change Price Act; Forfeit Labor Support

PANAMA EXEMPT

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board exempted the Panama Canal Zone from wage stabilization regulations.

General Wage Regulation 16-A was adopted unanimously by the board to exempt wages, salaries and other compensation of employes in the Canal Zone from wage stabilization controls.

The board said all persons employed in the area are either government personnel or employed on governmental projects and the prevailing rates are substantially below the rates paid for comparable employment in the United States.

Poor Housing Endangers U.S.

Miami.—National morale is endangered by the housing crisis which confronts this nation.

Speaking to the American Legion's annual convention, AFL President William Green said:

"We have been profoundly shocked —as I know all of you must have been—at the recent disclosure of the ruthless and shameless manner in which the pressing need of servicemen and their families for housing of any kind has been exploited at various army camps throughout the nation.

"They have been compelled to pay the most exorbitant prices for squalid, unsanitary shacks, unfit for human habitation.

"Workers in defense plants have suffered the same experience."

He blamed the real estate interests and Congress for this shameful situation.

"Mutual understanding and cooperation between those who represent the civilian workers of this country and those who represent the interests of veterans and the members of the armed forces is essential to the present and future welfare of America," he said.

"The American Federation of Labor and the American Legion are two strong and influential organizations, both truly American in every way—in principle and in practice as well as in name. Joined together in a common undertaking we present a powerful front to the world, and we constitute a vigorous force for the promotion of our principles and the attainment of our objectives."

TO HONOR GREEN

New York.—A bronze bust of AFL President William Green, executed by Joseph Hondl, noted American sculptor, will be presented by the Jewish Labor Committee Oct. 28. Vice President Alben W. Barkley and Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin will speak.

Washington.—Dixiecrats and reactionary Republicans refused to change the Defense Production Act which guarantees higher prices and higher profits but no controls to protect the working people of the nation.

The bloc shelved action for this session of the 82d Congress.

President Truman and AFL President William Green had called upon Congress to repeal the amendment sponsored by Republican Sen. Homer E. Capehart, which requires that all higher costs be included in ceiling prices; the Republican Rep. Clifford Hope's amendment banning slaughtering quotas, and the Dixiecrat Rep. A. S. Herlong's amendment which does for the retailer what the Capehart amendment does for the wholesaler.

Mr. Green said the 82d Congress could redeem itself on price control legislation by repealing these 3 amendments.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said that if Congress failed to take such action, the voters of the country would know whom to hold responsible for unjustified increases in the cost of living.

The Senate had passed a watered-down compromise substitute for the Capehart amendment but the Dixiecrat-GOP controlled House Rules committee refused to clear this measure to the House floor.

In vain Rep. Brent Spence of Kentucky, the banking chairman, recounted how the Capehart Amendment had got into the controls law during an all-night session of the conferees and how Congress had accepted it without any committee study at all.

He said that the Administration, which had accepted the law on one day's notice to prevent controls from lapsing July 31, believed the amendment was administratively unworkable and, in addition, would add to the inflationary spiral. The measure before the committee now, he said, was to correct earlier hasty and ill-considered action.

NEW SEAFARERS HOME.—Brooklyn, N. Y.—This 3-story building of AFL Seafarers' International Union, 4th Ave., between 29th and 21st Sts., houses SIU hiring hall, union headquarters, cafe, bar, seamen's furnishings shop and the SIU Cooks and Bakers School. Face of building is brownstone and white limestone, structure cost $1 million.

SIU Hall Houses Cooks' School

New York.—The new $1 million headquarters of the Atlantic and Gulf District of the AFL Seafarers International Union is nearing completion in the Park Slope section.

The new three-story hall fronts on Fourth Avenue, between 20th and 21st Streets and is close by the Brooklyn waterfront facilities used by many of the union's contracted steamship operators.

The main floor of the building will house a cafeteria seating 230 persons, a galley, butcher shop and a bakery. In addition the main deck will feature a cafe and bar and a shop offering seamen's furnishings.

Preparation of the foods served in the cafeteria will be supervised by experienced cooks and chefs and the galley facilities will be used to train union members enrolled in the new SIU Cooks and Bakers school.

The bar, known as the Port O' Call Bar, has been designed to provide a salty atmosphere. An 80-foot bar shaped like the hull of a clipped ship will have at the point of its bow an 800-pound oak figurehead carved from a composite made of 5 authentic Viking figurines exhibited in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The bulkheads or walls will display backlighted 3 dimensional color scenes in ports familiar to seafaring men. The bulkhead will be lighted from fixtures concealed in an arched ceiling. Its front will be identical in design to that of the Sea Chest, where the seamen's furnishings will be sold.

From a mammoth hiring hall on the second floor, the Seafarers will be assigned to ships, with jobs being posted on a giant electrical board, conceived by the union and especially constructed for the purpose. The hiring hall will also serve as an assembly and meeting place with accommodations for 1,000 persons.

The second floor will also feature game rooms, a television theater, showers, library and writing room.

The union administrative offices, publications and welfare fund will occupy the third floor, along with offices of the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific and the AFL Brotherhood of Marine Engineers, both SIU affiliates.

The face of the building is done in brownstone and white limestone with marble decorating the main entrance.

The entire property, which was formerly the site of Public School 60, built in 1886, is 200 feet wide and 175 feet deep. The building itself is 105 feet by 90 feet. The remaining area will be landscaped and used as an outdoor sun deck for members "on the beach" and for recreational facilities.

NEW IATSE OFFICE

New York.—The AFL International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes moved its general office Oct. 15 to Suite 1900, RKO Building, 1270 6th Ave., New York 20, N. Y., telephone CIrcle 5-4369.

Union Label Offers Help

Washington. — The AFL Union Label Trades Department offers the help of trained photographers and newspapermen to affiliated unions to help plan union label publicity for conventions, special ceremonies and campaigns.

The offer is part of an expanded publicity service, designed to assist affiliated organizations, Secretary-Treasurer Raymond F. Leheney pointed out.

Upon request from organizations affiliated with the ULTD, professional newspapermen and photographers will be assigned to assist in securing advance publicity for conventions, special ceremonies and union label, shop card and union button campaigns.

"It is the desire of this department," Mr. Leheney said, "to offer all possible assistance to our affiliates in utilizing every available media for publicizing their organizations and to work out new programs for reaching the general public via newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations."

STATEHOOD

Washington.—Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii will be considered early in the next session of Congress which begins Jan. 8.

Senate Majority Leader Ernest McFarland gave that assurance.

The AFL supports statehood for both territories.

1951 Worst Since 1947 In State Labor Laws

Washington.—The legislative year 1951 was the least satisfactory in terms of progress in the labor field since 1947.

So the AFL Executive Council reported to the AFL 70th convention.

"That year (1947) the Taft-Hartley Act was enacted by Congress and the states went even further in their efforts to restrict the activities of trade unions," the Council said.

"This trend was reversed in 1948. Practically no anti-labor legislation was passed and we made a few advances; in 1949 and 1950 we continued to gain.

"This year 44 state legislatures met in regular session. While a few acts of major importance passed, for the most part advances made were only minor. The anti-union measures enacted, and the repeal of other constructive legislation more than offset the gains."

The convention commended the State Federations of Labor for continued activity in state legislative fields. It noted that North Dakota became the first state to enact a law guaranteeing the right of employes of the state and local subdivisions to join unions of their own choice.

PENNSYLVANIA RECORD GOOD

Harrisburg, Pa. — Pennsylvania's state legislature quit without a single anti-labor bill in the hopper.

"That has never happened before in the 12 years I've headed the State Federation of Labor," said James McDevitt, who is taking leave of the state presidency to head the AFL Labor's League for Political Education in Washington.

"I think the answer is that our people in 1950 did a good job of registering and voting," Mr. McDevitt said. "We elected more friends of labor to the legislature than in any previous off-year election and we made a great gain in the vote for members of Congress.

"Even our enemies were impressed, for those ballot box returns and decided it would not be discreet to sponsor repressive bills."

4 SENATORS RAP UNFAIR TAX LAW

Washington.—The AFL called the new tax law a soak-the-poor, spare-the-rich measure.

President Truman said it is an "escape" for the wealthy from bearing a fair share of the national tax burden.

Sens. Hubert H. Humphrey, Herbert H. Lehman, Paul H. Douglas and Wayne Morse joined the chorus:

"A study of the conference report shows that in arriving at a so-called compromise between the Senate and House versions the conference report favored those who earned incomes of more than $5,000 at the expense of the lower income groups.

"In deciding to decrease the amount raised by individual income taxes from the House version of $364 million, only 20 percent of that amount, or $86 million, benefited families with less than $5,000 income—yet these families comprise 80 percent of the individual taxpayers of this country.

"We fail to see equity in a proposal where 80 percent of the taxpayers get only 20 percent of the relief while 20 percent of the taxpayers get 80 percent of the relief."

Rail Pensions To Rise Soon

Washington. — Railroad pensioners were assured of a 15 percent increase by Dec. 1, and maybe by Nov. 1.

The increase in benefits for pensioned rail workers and their widows was won from the 82d Congress just before adjournment of the first session on Oct. 20.

The provisions were to be effective the first day the month following signing of the measure by President Truman.

The railroad brotherhoods won the benefits through favorable Senate action after the House had caved in to the railroad lobby and passed a bill unacceptable to the unions.

The new law provides:

A 15 percent increase in the amounts now given annuitants and pensioners.

A 25 percent rise for survivors and a 25 percent increase in lump-sum payments above their present scale.

Spouses are to get half of the amount paid a retired employe up to $40 a month.

The measure continues the program of having rail workers contribute a percentage of their first $300 of monthly wages to the retirement fund. Employers match this contribution. The present contribution is 6 percent. It will go to 61 percent on Jan. 1.

BISSELL CONFIRMED

Washington. — The Senate confirmed Richard M. Bissell, Jr., to be deputy director of the foreign aid program. He will serve as deputy to W. Averell Harriman, Mutual Security Administrator.

TOM COMAN

Washington.—Newest public member Wage Stabilization Board is widely known in AFL for his long services as a reporter for Associated Press and Bureau of National Affairs. He covered many AFL conventions.

Eisenhower Praises ILGWU

New York.—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, as president of Columbia University, and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt praised the educational work of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Their endorsements appear on the cover page of the 34th annual report of Mark Starr, ILGWU educational director, just published.

"Please extend to the students and staff attending the ILGWU Educational Rally my best wishes for a most successful year," General Eisenhower said. "Their readiness to give up their time and effort that they may win a better understanding of the American economy will be rewarded by increased fitness for the responsibilities of American citizenship."

During the year 427 classes and activities were run by 130 ILGWU locals and other groups reporting with 15,720 members participating. The total for the previous year was 12,268.

The world-wide reception given to the ILGWU movie, "With These Hands," recalled the success of the musical revue, "Pins and Needles," away back in 1937-41.

"With These Hands" is the first trade union movie to be produced professionally from script to screen and the first to be shown on Broadway and in Hollywood. With the assistance of the U. S. State Department versions of the film have been made in French, Swedish, Danish, Italian and Greek and one in Spanish is in preparation.

Innovations of 1950-51 include a successful class in sculpture and a survey of the needs of the older members.

The most popular classes were those in trade union methods and history, with 75 classes and 2,740 members participating. Other classes included current events, parliamentary law, public speaking, time and motion study and counselling.

Woll Labels Tax Law Timid, Irresponsible

New York.—Action of Congress in approving the $5,691,000,000 tax increase with minor amendments is further evidence of congressional timidity and failure to face up to its responsibilities.

AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL Committee on Taxation, said that this failure will mean additional dollars in higher prices for both taxpayers and the government.

The AFL supported President Truman's request for $10 billion in new taxes to meet expenses of mobilization and resistance against Communist aggression in Korea.

The AFL sought a bill that would give taxpayers in the low-income brackets rebates or lower rates, close loopholes in gift, estate and other sources of taxation, reduce the 27 percent depletion allowance for the oil industry, not increase excise taxes, and raise excess profits taxes.

Instead the 82d Congress soaked the poor, gave every favor to the high income groups and corporations, and in addition approved a rider authorizing the payment of federal funds to states which publish the names of recipients of relief and assistance.

Mr. Woll stated that the major AFL objections to the law as it was finally approved were that it would not secure additional tax revenue that is needed and that it would not operate to check inflation effectively.

He listed the specific objections of the federation to the law, including:

1. The law provides increased personal income tax rates that will mean some taxpayers will pay as much as 7 percent more in income taxes while others in the middle and upper income brackets will be paying as much as 28 percent less than they paid during World War II under the 1944 act.

2. The adoption of additional excise taxes over and above the emergency tax rates adopted during World War II is unnecessary and can contribute only to hardship and increased living costs.

3. Failure to carry out administration requests to fix earliest possible effective dates for the law will mean loss of millions of dollars of revenue.

4. Failure to incorporate necessary revisions governing capital gain taxation, taxation of estates and gifts, depletion allowances and other loopholes will mean the continued loss of hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue.

Mr. Woll said that the action of Congress on the revenue bill emphasized the urgency for concerted action in combating current trends in tax legislation.

"The continued and increasing tax burdens thrust on those in the low-income groups by local, state and federal governments represent an unjustified threat to the maintenance of the American standard of living," Mr. Woll said. "This has been unduly and unnecessarily undermined in millions of instances under the guise of a defense emergency."

Your November 1 Tax Rate

Washington.—Following are the tentative and approximate amounts to be withheld from weekly pay checks under the new Dixiecrat-GOP tax law raising rates 11.75 percent Nov. 1:

Salary Range	Number of Dependents None	One	Two	Three
$25-26	$3.10	$2.50	$0.00	$0.00
30-31	6.10	3.50	1.00	.00
35-36	7.10	4.50	2.00	.00
40-41	8.10	5.50	3.00	.40
45-46	9.10	6.50	4.00	1.40
50-51	10.10	7.50	5.00	2.40
55-56	11.10	8.50	6.00	3.40
60-62	12.20	9.60	7.10	4.50
70-72	14.20	11.60	9.10	6.50
80-82	16.20	13.60	11.10	8.50
90-92	18.20	15.60	13.10	10.50
100-105	20.50	17.90	15.40	12.80

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